

MICHIGAN.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

A MEETING OF CITIZENS OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN,

RELATIVE TO

The war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico.

JUNE 20, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WAR MEETING.

Agreeably to previous notice, a meeting of the citizens of Detroit and its vicinity, irrespective of party, convened at the city hall in the city of Detroit, on Wednesday evening, the 3d instant, [June,] to take into consideration the existing war with the republic of Mexico, and to manifest the merited regard entertained by our citizens for the gallant hero of the Rio Bravo and his heroic army. The meeting, in point of numbers, intelligence, patriotism, and unanimity, was unprecedented in the history of our city; but one sentiment seemed to pervade the immense mass—the glory and honor of our common country; an unalterable determination to maintain and preserve our just rights and the honor of our republic, be the foe whom he may.

Geo. R. Griswold, esq., took the stand, and proposed, as preliminary to calling the meeting to order, three cheers for the hero of the Rio Bravo, General Zachary Taylor, and his gallant army, which was responded to in a style that made the welkin ring. The cheering having subsided, Mr. Griswold called the meeting to order; and, on his motion, General John R. Williams, mayor of the city, was unanimously chosen president, and the Hon. B. F. Witherell, Hon. Daniel Goodwin, Hon. John Norvell, Hon. John McDonnell, and James F. Joy, esq., were chosen vice presidents. Cornelius O'Flynn was also chosen secretary, and E. N. Wilcox assistant secretary, of the meeting.

The meeting having been organized, the president stated the object for which it was convened, and eloquently appealed to his fellow-citizens to co-operate cordially and promptly in sustaining the government in the present crisis, and once more demonstrate to the world the ability and heroism of the citizen soldiers to maintain the honor and defend the soil of the republic. The remarks of the president were received with enthusiastic applause.

On motion of Geo. R. Griswold, esq., the president appointed a committee of Ritchie & Heiss, print.

mittee to draught resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, consisting of Geo. R. Griswold, esq., of Detroit, Hon. James Gunning, of Livonia, General Henry Smith, of Monroe, Wm. B. Hunt, esq., of Hamtramck, and Geo. C. Bates, esq., of Detroit.

The committee retired, and, after a short absence, reported, through their chairman, Mr. Griswold, a preamble and resolutions, which the chairman supported in an eloquent and forcible address, during the delivery of which he was cordially cheered.

The Hon. Jacob M. Howard being frequently called for, remarked that he had attended the meeting, in common with his fellow-citizens, to bear testimony to the valor of the American army and their gallant hero on the Rio Grande, and to give his sanction and aid to any measure that was calculated to sustain the honor of the country and the success of our arms; and that, too, without at this time inquiring into the cause of the existing war; he knew no party in the present crisis. It was enough for him to know that American blood had been shed. Mr. H. continued his remarks in an animated manner for some time, throughout which he was cordially applauded. He suggested, however, that the phraseology of the resolutions be amended, to meet the approbation of all.

After some remarks from Mr. Griswold, Mr. M. J. Bacon, and others, on motion unanimously adopted, the resolutions were recommitted, and Mr. J. M. Howard added to the committee.

The committee having retired, Colonel Geo. C. Bates responded to the loud and oft-repeated calls of the meeting. His animating and fervid eloquence received the marked attention of the audience, whose frequent cheers but too plainly told how fully his remarks corresponded with the patriotism which pervaded the large assemblage whom he addressed.

The committee now appeared, and, through their chairman, reported the preamble and resolutions with a few amendments, which were concurred in. The following, as amended, were then unanimously adopted, amid the prolonged applause of the meeting:

Whereas the Congress of the United States, with unprecedented unanimity, and "by virtue of the constitutional authority vested in them," have, by their act of May 13, 1846, entitled "An act to provide for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and the republic of Mexico," declared that, by the act of the republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States; and

Whereas the President of the United States of America has, by his solemn proclamation, reciting, and of the same date with, the act of Congress above mentioned, "proclaimed the same," and specially enjoined the public functionaries, civil and military, and exhorted all the good people of the United States, "as they love their country and feel the wrongs which have forced on them the last resort of injured nations, and as they consult the best means, under the blessings of divine Providence, of abridging its calamities, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the order and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace;" and

Whereas this meeting fully accords with the almost unanimous sentiment of the national legislature as to the necessity of the measure by them adopted, and the true character of the war, *a war of defence*, to repel invasion and resist aggression; and

Whereas, by well-authenticated national acts, and the official report of the gallant officer commanding the "army of occupation," the fact is clearly established that "American blood has been shed on American soil;" and

Whereas this meeting believes that, under the blessings of divine Providence, a united front at home, in council and opinion, with a vigorous prosecution of the war thus forced upon us "*by the acts of the republic of Mexico*," will the more speedily secure to the country the blessings and repose of peace; therefore,

Resolved by the citizens of the city of Detroit and county of Wayne in general meeting assembled, That the present position of our foreign relations with the republic of Mexico imperiously demands prompt and vigorous action on the part of the general government, the cordial co-operation of the State sovereignties, and the firm determination on the part of the people to offer on the altar of our beloved country all party prejudices and predilections, *and, in this war of defence, go for our country, the whole country, and nothing but the country.*

Resolved, That the provisions of the act of Congress of May 13, 1846, and the proclamation of the President of the United States, meet our most cordial approbation, and are in accordance, as we believe, with the general sentiment of the people of the United States.

Resolved, That the history of the past twenty years exhibits, in our national intercourse with the republic of Mexico, a mild forbearance, under repeated insults and injuries, highly honorable to our country, considering the imbecility and distracted councils of this neighboring republic; but that recent events, while they clearly develop concealed hostility and duplicity on the part of Mexico, also establish the necessity on our part that forbearance should cease, and that respect to our national honor, and a regard for the rights of our injured citizens, should be enforced by the only means left us—a *resort to arms.*

Resolved, That we deem our country right in this contest :

1st. Because, by repeated acts of national outrage, American commerce and trade have been injured, the American flag insulted, the personal rights of American citizens trampled upon, their property taken forcibly without compensation or subsequent redress, and their persons imprisoned.

2d. Because Mexico, after officially inviting, has contumeliously refused to negotiate—declining the reception of the minister of the United States, and officially announcing to the world the cessation of all amicable relations between the two governments.

3d. Because Mexico has attacked our army, acting in pursuance of the legitimate orders of our government, and been the first to shed the blood of our countrymen.

Resolved, That, whether right or wrong, when the constituted authorities of the country enact and proclaim the existence of a war, we deem it the duty of every good citizen to suspend the censorship of individual opinion until the restoration of peace, and unitedly support the government in the exercise of its constitutional functions.

Resolved, That we will and do rally around our government, and pledge our support in the exercise of all the means and influence in our power; that we hold our country's friends our friends, and our country's enemies our enemies; and we hereby make common cause with our government against any and every nation with which it may be brought into collision.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the gallantry manifested by our little army of occupation, and its sagacious and heroic commander, General Taylor, in the splendid victories of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; that we approve of the recent promotion of the hero of the Rio Grande, and would rejoice to hear of the further acts of our government conferring honor and distinction upon his worthy officers and men.

Resolved, That Michigan will cheerfully respond to the call of the general government, and furnish her quota of men and means, and hold herself in readiness to defend the honor and soil of our common country.

The meeting was also ably and forcibly addressed by A. W. Buel, esq., Vice Presidents Witherell and Joy, and the Hon. Geo. A. O'Keefe, whose soul-stirring eloquence called forth frequent and hearty plaudits. The patriotic spirit which seemed to animate the speakers, one and all, was but the index of the emotions which swelled the bosoms of all present.

On motion of Mr. M. J. Bacon,

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers, and be published in the city and other newspapers of the State; and that the secretary transmit copies to the President of the United States, General Zachary Taylor, and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be by them presented to their respective bodies.

Then, on motion, nine cheers were given for General Taylor and his gallant officers on the Rio Bravo, and six cheers for his army, in a manner which told with what heartfelt gratitude the valor of American arms is appreciated by the citizens of the west.

On motion, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN R. WILLIAMS, *President*.

B. F. H. WITHERELL,	} <i>Vice Pres'ts.</i>
DANIEL GOODWIN,	
JOHN NORVALL,	
JOHN McDONNELL,	
JAMES F. JOY,	

C. O'FLYNN, *Secretary*.

E. N. WILCOX, *Assistant Secretary*.

DETROIT, June 5, 1846.

DEAR SIR: It affords me pleasure to enclose to you, herewith, the proceedings of a public meeting of our citizens, held on the evening of the 3d instant. It is the more gratifying as the proceedings were characterized by entire unanimity, irrespective of party.

There can be no doubt but that the people of the United States, by evincing sentiments of confidence in, and attachment to, their government, will strengthen the hands and power of the constituted authorities.

I trust that this sentiment of union will pervade the whole country, as a manifestation of it will greatly aid the government in effecting a settlement of differences with Great Britain as well as with Mexico.

Very respectfully, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. R. WILLIAMS.

Hon. ROBERT McCLELLAND,

Member of Congress, Washington City.